

**Fire Corps Announcement
Speaking Points
R. David Paulison, United States Fire Administrator
White House: Indian Treaty Room
December 9th, 2004**

1. Opening:

- a. Thank you for your invitation to participate in this historic announcement.
- b. Thank President Bush and the White House Representatives
- c. Thank Matt Mayer and Sue Mencer for their partnership and support from ODP.
- d. My thanks to the organizations whom have come together and worked so hard with Liz DiGregorio and her team at Citizen Corps.

1. Here is the list of organizations

FOUNDERS

- **International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC)**
- **International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF)**
- **National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC)**

SUPPORTERS

- **Congressional Fire Services Institute (CFSI)**
- **International Fire Service Training Association (IFSTA)**
- **International Society of Fire Service Instructors (ISFSI)**
- **National Association of Hispanic Firefighters (NAHF)**
- **National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM)**
- **National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**
- **North American Fire Training Directors (NAFTD)**
- **Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS)**

- Women in the Fire Service (WFSI)
 - Fire Department Safety Officers Association (FDSOA)
 - International Association of Arson Investigators (IAAI)
 - International Association of Black Professional Fire Fighters
- e. I would also like to recognize Shawn Stokes for his service these past 10 weeks as the Director of Fire Corps, and also Tim O'Dowd from the US Fire Administration staff, serving as project manager.
- f. **And finally, it is my honor to thank Wayne Powell of the USFA staff, for his tireless dedication to making Fire Corps a reality. Wayne was mentioned earlier this morning as the “Father of Fire Corps,” and I would like to echo the gratitude of the nation’s fire service for your vision, wisdom and hard work on behalf of all firefighters. Thank you Wayne.**

2. Message Text:

- a. As the world witnessed the events of September 11, 2001, there are many residents of this nation looking to contribute their time and skills to the firefighters and fire departments of their communities.
- b. All of us in this room, know first hand the contributions and sacrifice made by the firefighters of New York, DC Metro area and Pennsylvania on that day. We also know very well, the contributions and sacrifices made each day by our 1.2 million men and women of the fire service.....currently serving their communities.

- c. Many residents of this nation, have long desired to find ways in which they could help their local firefighters and fire departments.

To:

1. Contribute to their community safety,
2. Contribute to their local fire departments
3. Contribute to the Homeland Security of the nation

- d. Joining us today is Jeff Thorpe, and the Dunn Loring (Virginia) Fire Chief, Mike Masciola.

1. Jeff lives in Dunn Loring and was looking for opportunities to help his community prepare for emergencies of all kinds.
2. Jeff went to the Citizen Corps website and in mid-2003 and took on the role of bookkeeper, donating over 170 hours of service in the past year.
3. Jeff is just one example of how individuals might get involved in their departments.

- e. And this is exactly the strength of FireCorps. A program that will harness the talents and skills of a community and its people in support of their local fire services.

f. **Fire Corps will assist resource constrained fire departments** by providing critical support for non-operational and non-suppression related activities.

1. through the use of citizen advocates for non-fire suppression related activities.
2. Fire Corps will also educate fire departments on how to implement a citizen volunteer program.

g. Fire Corps, the newest program under Citizen Corps

1. is modeled after the highly successful "Volunteers in Police Service" program (VIPS) that has been in place in place for about three years now.
2. Fire Corps will support fire departments large and small, career and volunteer in both rural and suburban areas.
3. Fire Corps will not take jobs away from firefighters; it will allow them to focus more time, energy and resources on fighting fires.
4. Fire Corps will not allow citizen advocates donning of turnout gear and battle fires.

h. Fire Corps will provide the public an opportunity to help their local fire department.

i. The National Volunteer Fire Council (NVFC), Volunteer and Combination Officers Section (VCOS) of the International

Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC) and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) will lead the effort of collecting data and surveying fire departments nationwide for

1. existing programs that can be identified
2. and subsequently register as Fire Corps programs along with their citizen advocates that perform the function.

3. Conclusion:

I thank you for the opportunity to join you today.

As I mentioned earlier, there so many talented and gifted community residents, throughout this nation, with strong desires to contribute to our Homeland Security efforts within the fire service.

Programs as large as Fire Corps result whenever the organizations represented here today, come together in a commitment to protect this great nation of ours.

As the United States Fire Administrator, I thank you and know the nation is safer in the coming months and the years ahead, as a result of this program.....Fire Corps.

May God Bless our Firefighters, and May God Bless America.
Thank you.